

DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024

Town & Country

The Search for Joy



DEC/JAN 2023 \$6.99

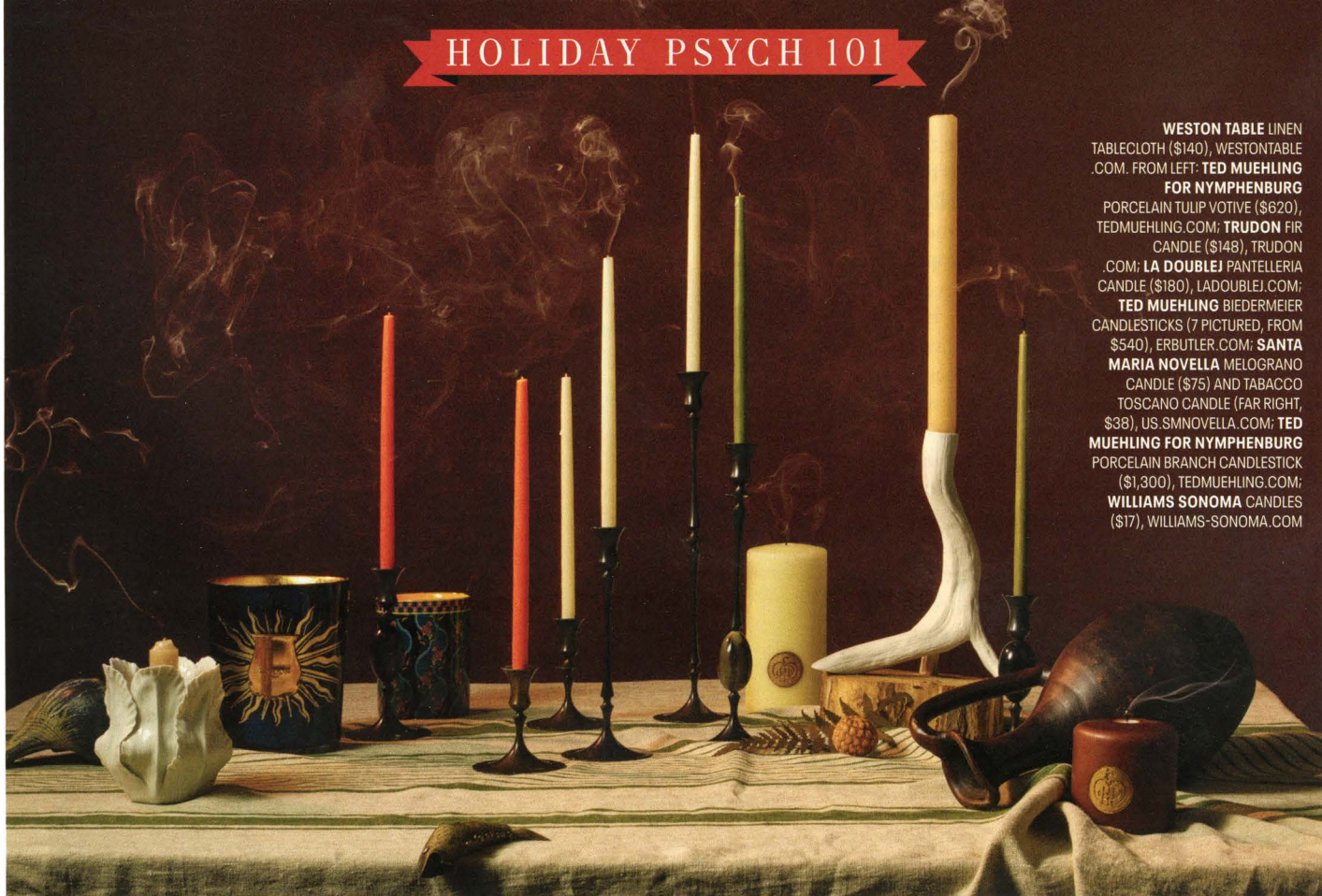
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R. Toledo



WESTON TABLE LINEN
TABLECLOTH (\$140), WESTONTABLE.COM. FROM LEFT: **TED MUEHLING FOR NYMPHENBURG**
PORCELAIN TULIP VOTIVE (\$620), TEDMUEHLING.COM; **TRUDON** FIR
CANDLE (\$148), TRUDON.COM; **LA DOUBLEJ** PANTELLERIA
CANDLE (\$180), LADDOUBLEJ.COM; **TED MUEHLING BIEDERMEIER**
CANDLESTICKS (7 PICTURED, FROM
\$540), ERBUTLER.COM; **SANTA MARIA NOVELLA** MELOGRANO
CANDLE (\$75) AND **TABACCO**
TOSCANO CANDLE (FAR RIGHT,
\$38), US.SMNOVELLA.COM; **TED MUEHLING FOR NYMPHENBURG**
PORCELAIN BRANCH CANDLESTICK
(\$1,300), TEDMUEHLING.COM; **WILLIAMS SONOMA** CANDLES
(\$17), WILLIAMS-SONOMA.COM

THE JOY OF...

The Hack

Shameful no more! How to regift with grace.

BY ISIAH MAGSINO

It's never graceful to be unappreciative of a gift, but how is one to react when one receives a present that is so obviously last minute and, worse, clearly a *regift*? Is it less offensive to give nothing at all? "An ex-boyfriend gave me a used Jo Malone candle for my birthday," a New York fashion

publicist tells *T&C*. "It was like he was giving me used lingerie."

Seinfeld may have introduced the social faux pas into the popular lexicon (see Season 6, Episode 12, "The Label Maker"), but the act of regifting has been a hot button etiquette issue since the days of Emily Post. Today it's still as publicly scorned as it is widely (albeit secretly) practiced. The debate naturally reaches a fever pitch during the holidays, when it's common for people to recycle items they never intend to use. Candles, wine, and books are often top offenders, and they double as telltale signs that you probably don't mean as much to the giver as you might have thought. Therein lies the root of

the issue: The problem with regifting, according to the Emily Post Institute, is its potential to hurt feelings—not just the recipient's but also those of the person who gave you the gift in the first place.

Not all hope is lost. In a world that is turning away from excess consumption, regifting could be our greatest savior—as long as it's done right. Before you decide to commit the act, ask yourself why. If it's for purely selfish reasons—to rid yourself of surplus bric-a-brac—don't do it. But if you genuinely believe it will bring joy to someone else, go ahead and pass it on. And if you manage to check both those boxes? You've struck gold. **T&C**

Yours, Truly

There are ways to guarantee your gift doesn't recirculate. Here are four of them.

GEORG JENSEN
WINE AND BAR
3-PIECE
GIFT SET (\$149),
GUMPS.COM



**AGUA
MAGICA**
MEZCAL GIFT
BOX SET (\$95),
AGUAMAGICA.COM



**A PARISIAN CABINET OF
CURIOSITIES: DEYROLLE**, BY PRINCE
LOUIS ALBERT DE BROGUE (FLAMMARION,
\$35), RIZZOLIUSA.COM



**HERETIC
PARFUM**
CANDLE
SCULPTURE
(\$350),
HERETIC
PARFUM.COM

